

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Original) A hardware management apparatus comprising:
at least one semiconductor integrated circuit component which comprises a plurality of semiconductor components, and a first memory for storing first management information used to manage mount states of said plurality of semiconductor components;
at least one circuit board which comprises said at least one semiconductor integrated circuit component, and a second memory for storing second management information used to manage a mount state of said at least one semiconductor integrated circuit component; and
a third memory for storing third management information used to manage a mount state of said at least one circuit board.

2. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:
management information change means for, when the mount states of said plurality of semiconductor components are changed, rewriting the first management information stored in said first memory to indicate changed mount states of said plurality of semiconductor components, for, when the mount state of said at least one semiconductor integrated circuit component is changed, rewriting the second management information stored in said second memory to indicate the changed mount

state of said at least one semiconductor integrated circuit component, and for, when the mount state of said at least one circuit board is changed, rewriting the third management information stored in said third memory to indicate the changed mount state of said at least one circuit board.

3. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising an IC card having intellectual property information and a management area for storing fourth management information used to manage the intellectual property information, and wherein when a management method of the intellectual property information is changed, said management information change means rewrites the fourth management information stored in the management area to indicate the changed management information of the intellectual property information.

4. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the first memory includes a first information area storing information of the plurality of semiconductor components upon manufacture and a second information area storing information of the plurality of semiconductor components after change.

5. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the second memory includes a first information area storing information of the at least one circuit board upon manufacture and a second information area storing information of the at least one circuit board after change.

6. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 1,
wherein the third memory includes a first information area storing information of
the at least one circuit board upon manufacture and a second area storing information
of the at least one circuit board after change.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently amended) ~~An apparatus according to claim 7,~~
A hardware management apparatus comprising:
first storage means for storing first management information used to manage a
state of hardware upon building a system;
second storage means, provided independently from said first storage means, for
storing second management information indicating a current state of the hardware;
management information storage means for, when the state of the hardware is
changed after the system was built, storing the second management information
indicating the current state of the hardware in said second storage means;
display means for displaying a changed state of the hardware on the basis of the
first management information stored in said first storage means, and the second
management information stored in said second storage means; and
~~further comprising~~ an IC card having intellectual property information and a
management area for storing management information used to manage the intellectual
property information, ~~and~~

wherein the display means displays a changed state of the intellectual property information based on the management information stored in the management area.

9. - 18. (Cancelled)